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School Committee Minutes 1/5/2009

Approved by School Committee January 27, 2009

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009
7:30 P.M.

Present: Denise Burns, Chair, Leba Heigham
Joe Curran, Vice Chair Sue Sheffler
Ronald Spangler, Secretary Jeff Thielman
Joe Curro

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Chief Financial Officer: Sue Mazzarella
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

Absent: Student Representatives

EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:35 p.m. - 9:03 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted, seconded by Mr. Curran

Roll Call: Ms. Heigham, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Curran, Ms. Burns, Ms. Sheffler, Mr. Curro and Mr. Thielman all voted Yes
Vote 7:0.

On a motion by Ms. Heigham it was unanimously voted to exit out of Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. and return to our regular School Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Curro

Roll Call: Ms. Heigham, Mr. Spangler, Mr. Curran, Ms. Burns, Ms. Sheffler, Mr. Curro and Mr. Thielman all voted Yes
Vote 7:0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

- * Approval of Warrant # 09082 dated December 9, 2008 in the amount of \$285,020.61
- * Approval of Warrant # 09091 dated December 22, 2008 in the amount of \$615,283.09
- * Approval Of Hiring School Nurse At Pierce Elementary (.5 Grant)

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran it was unanimously voted to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
Vote 7:0

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Bodie gave a brief update on the conditions at each school due to the ice storm that resulted in a minor car accident at the Ottoson Middle School and a few employees falling without major injuries, before all the sanding was completed. Interim Superintendent also informed parents about two upcoming parent forums to discuss qualities that they would like to see of the Ottoson Middle School Principal. All information is on the website.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT EXTENSION RECOMMENDATION FROM SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS~SUB-COMMITTEE

Ms. Burns reiterated the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee recommendation to the full committee to accept the following two motions that the subcommittee members unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Curro moved to accept the recommendation to the full-committee to defer any further steps in establishing a permanent superintendent search until after May 1, 2009, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Vote 7:0

Mr. Curro moved to offer Kathy Bodie the position of Interim Superintendent from July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Vote 6-0-1, Mr. Curran Abstained.

Mr. Spangler motioned to direct the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee to report back to the full committee at the earliest date on compensation for Interim Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Vote 7:0

The subcommittee has scheduled a meeting on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Burns conveyed to the public that the board members need more information before budget discussions can continue and acknowledged that the School Committee would like to vote at our next meeting, the bottom line of the budget and give that figure to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Burns had Representative Sean Garballey speak to the committee and he appreciated the committee holding of budget discussions until the state can compile more figures on taxation and find new ways to raise revenues.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Thielman reported out on a meeting held with MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher and Chair, Ms. Burns to discuss lobbying priorities. As soon as more information is received from MASC on the FY 10 Budget from the governor, Mr. Thielman and Ms. Burns will update the committee.

The Community Relations Subcommittee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. at the Brackett School.

Mr. Spangler reported out on the Budget and Revenue Task Force subcommittee meeting held on December 16, 2008. Ms. Burns asked him and Mr. Thielman to serve along with Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, the Assistant and Town Manager, Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie and CFO Sue Mazzarella. The committee directed them to lobby for a town/school allocation of funds in FY '10 that adheres to the five-year plan. The subcommittee was evenly divided between leaving 9% of general fund revenue in reserve vs. leaving 7% of the general fund revenue in reserve. They will meet again February 2, 2009.

Mr. Curro will be scheduling District Accountability after tonight's meeting.

Mr. Spangler presented all correspondence received and noted the School Facilities Working Group will be holding a meeting soon.

Mr. Heigham will be holding a Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Subcommittee on January 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

***Mr. Curran motioned to adjourn at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Spangler.
Vote 7:0 unanimous***

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
School Committee
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